

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. When the 17th Gds Mecz Regt moved from Bernau to Templin 5323N-1350E, See Encl (A) for summer training in 1951, the rifle and MG companies of the 2d Mtz Rifle Bn, remained in Eberswalde the entire summer as guard and maintenance personnel for the depots of the 6th Gds Mecz Div. The 1st Mtz Rifle Bn performed the same duty after the 17th Gds Mecz Regt had gone to summer training on 15 April 1952. This time troops were transported in trucks organic to the regiment, but all equipment, such as tanks and weapons was moved by rail. Twenty men were assigned to each truck. The headquarters, AT co, mort co, signal platoon and automobile platoons of the 1st Mtz Bn also went to the summer training area. Each of the other battalions in the regiment left only one officer and seven EM in Eberswalde as area guards. One rifle company of the 2d Mtz Bn went to Templin on 5 April 1952 to prepare the area.

2. The chauffeurs' school and the tank training school did not participate in summer training. Members of these two schools remained at Bernau 6240N-1335E and continued their studies. the equipment was taken to summer camp but believe that all serviceable vehicles, tanks, mobile repair units, etc, were taken.

3. At the Templin summer training area the EM were quartered in one-story wooden shed-like structures each about 20 x 6 m. Each of these structures housed approximately 50 men. The EM slept in double-tiered beds which were arranged in two rows. These two rows were adjacent, with the foot of each bed in the first row flush against the floor of the bed in the second row. The beds in each row were separated by about 25 cm and there was enough room between the heads of the beds in the two rows and the walls to enable the men to walk around the room. There was a table at one end of the room for writing letters and similar uses.

SECRET

25X1A

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

4. The mess halls at the summer camp were open sheds consisting of only a wooden floor and a roof which was supported by poles at the four corners and in the center.
5. There were baths for weekly showering. Hot and cold running water was available in both the kitchen and the baths, and the whole camp was supplied with electric power. I do not know the source of the water or the electric power. Slit trenches served for latrines. There were movies and athletic games at the summer camp.
6. EM were not permitted to leave their barracks area. I did not know what restrictions, if any, were imposed on officers. Few men left the barracks area to go to the nearby villages.

7.

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Post Regulations

8. Soviet male officers who married Soviet civilian employees or Soviet female officers while stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany could live with their wives in the zone. No other dependents, however, were permitted in the Soviet Zone of Germany. No explanation was ever given as to why dependents were not freely admitted into Germany. Soviet officers had to obtain permission from their commanding officers if they wished to leave their areas after duty hours. EM were prohibited from leaving their barracks during off-duty hours. The above restrictions were not obeyed, however, and about one half of the EM frequently left camp to go into town. EM left through breaks in, or went over, the fences, or escaped with the connivance of friendly guards at the control check points. I do not know whether the officers obeyed these restrictions.
9. Officers and regular army re-enlistees (Sverkhsrochniki) were authorized 45 days leave, plus travel time, each year. I do not know what regular leave was authorized EM; EM were very seldom granted leave during their terms of service. Leaves for EM were arbitrarily decided by their COs, and it was usually only headquarters personnel, political workers, and outstanding soldiers who were granted leave. I do not know what percentage of a unit was allowed on leave at one time. All officers tried to obtain leaves in the spring and summer. I do not know of any officer taking leave in the winter.
10. EM were supposed to be given leave in cases of emergency (death in the family, severe illness, etc). It took months to investigate and approve such a leave, however, and by the time it was approved, the CO would as often as not cancel it, since the emergency would ordinarily be over by then. EM complained among themselves about not getting leaves, but did not make official complaints or demands.

Morale

11. Some seven EM of the 17th Gds Mecz Regt were constantly in the guard house for drinking and fraternizing. I heard that officers were confined in a guard house in town but do not know how many were in confinement. Some soldiers spent one-third of their Army career in the guard house.
12. About one-half of the men in the 17th Gds Mecz Regt obtained liquor illegally from Germans.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

13. I know of only one EM in the 2d Mtz Rifle Bn who had reported to the medical detachment upon contracting VD. This man reported in the Fall of 1951, and was court martialed. [REDACTED] 25X1X [REDACTED]. Most officers and soldiers were afraid to report VD because of the disciplinary action which would be taken against them. It was impossible to estimate how many men had, or had had, a venereal disease.

14. Many soldiers, especially those of the 1928 and 1929 classes, refused point-blank to carry out orders because they were about to be demobilized; however, no official action was taken against them.

[REDACTED] In the Spring of 1952, two EM of the 3d Rifle Co, 1st Mtz Rifle Bn, went AWOL from guard duty in order to fraternize. These two men later voluntarily returned and were placed in the guard house. After spending about one month in the guard house, they were returned to the USSR to serve two years in a penal labor battalion.

15. The only recent orders from higher headquarters designed to improve discipline were, to the best of knowledge, the prohibition of drinking and the prohibition of fraternization between Soviet personnel and the German population in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

16. I heard of the following specific examples of low morale:

- (a) In March 1952 an EM of the 82d Gds Hv Tk and SP Regt committed suicide after a quarrel with an officer.
- (b) In the Fall of 1951 an EM of the 35th Gds Mevz Regt committed suicide for a reason unknown to me.
- (c) I heard of three or four other suicides but cannot remember any details.
- (d) A major deserted from the Templin Kommandatura in December 1951.
- (e) Two drivers of the 35th Gds Mecz Regt deserted in the Summer of 1951, but were later apprehended.
- (f) An EM of the 17th Gds Mecz Regt deserted in February 1951, prior to my joining the regiment.

It was natural for EM to resent the greater liberty and more substantial pay of officers, but I never heard official complaints from EM about officers' privileges; nor do I believe that the conditions of medical care, recreation, PX supplies and food in any way lowered the morale of the troops. I do not know of any dissatisfaction with the promotion policy for officers or EM.

17. I heard of only a single instance of EM returned to the USSR prior to the normal date of return: in the Spring of 1952 two Regular Army re-enlistees (Sverkhstrochniki) were demobilized and returned to the USSR because of drinking to excess. I also heard that all former DPs and PWs, "liberated" by the Soviets and drafted into the Soviet Army, were not kept in the Soviet Zone of Germany for their normal tour of duty, but were all gradually being returned to the USSR.

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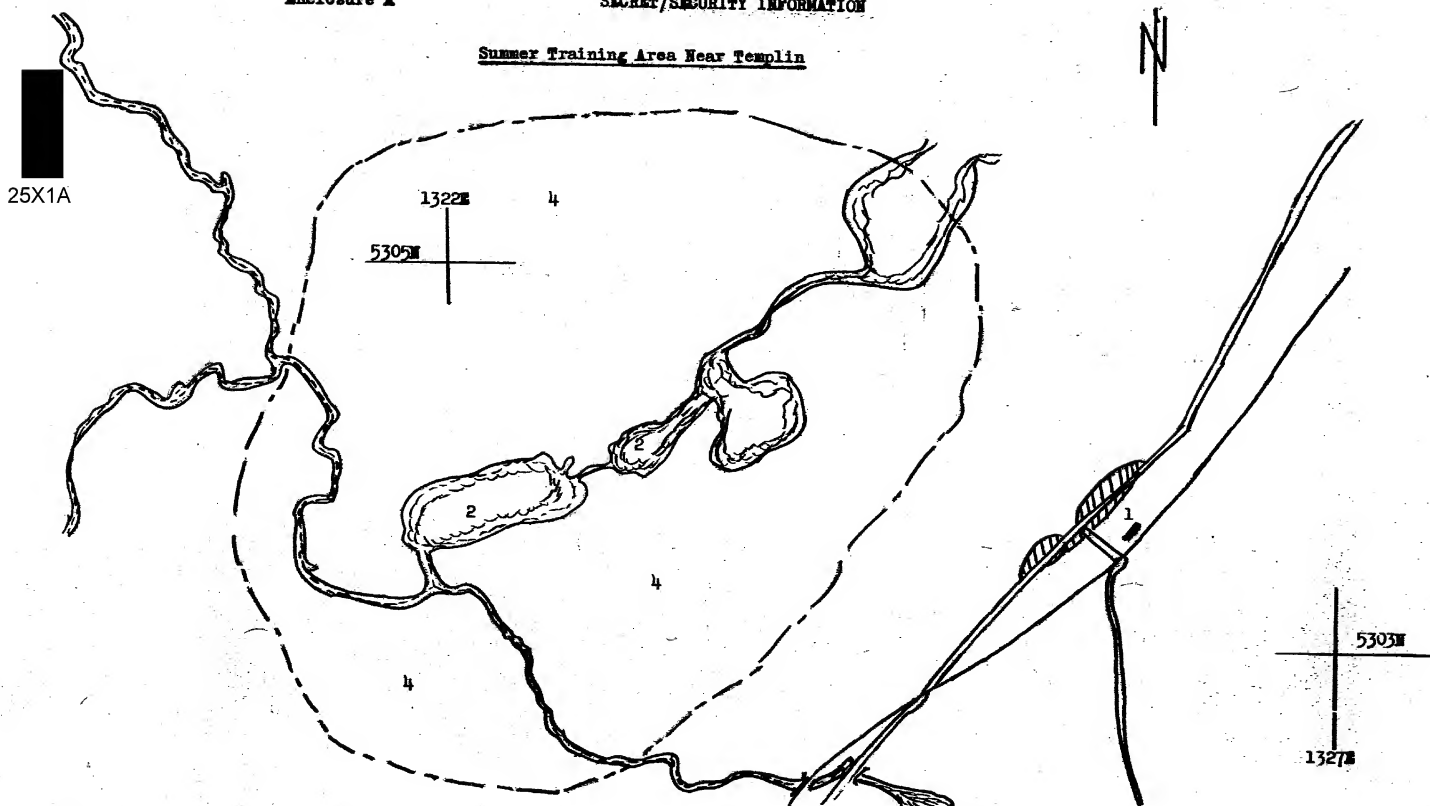
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Enclosure A: Summer Training Area of the 17th Gds Mecz Regt in Templin
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Enclosure A

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

Summer Training Area Near Templin



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Enclosure A

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

Summer Training Area Near Templin

25X1X [REDACTED] detrained at the second railroad station past Templin which, according to the map, must have been Hammelspring station. The location of the summer training area of the 17th Gds Mecz Regt was about three km northwest of the railroad station in a sparsely wooded area.

25X1X [REDACTED] the Grosse Kuhwall See and the Grosse Lanken See and the canal connecting the Grosse Lanken See with the Roeddelin See.

25X1X [REDACTED]

Legend

25X1X

1. Railroad station of Hammelspring, [REDACTED] detrained enroute to the summer training area.
2. Lakes
3. Canal
4. Area of the 17th Gds Mecz Regt and of other units (u/1) of the 6th Gds Mecz Div.

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